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Food and Home Notes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Whether packed in a light salt brine or broiled in butter before processing, canned mushrooms can add something special to your meal according to home economists at USDA.

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Mushrooms are low in calories, yet provide a useful amount of vitamins and minerals.

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If you need top quality mushrooms...no blemishes and a white or cream color...be sure to buy U.S. Grade A.

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What style do you prefer? Mushrooms can be purchased whole, buttons, sliced or stems and pieces. The top three are most expensive but the stems and pieces (if appearance is not too important) are ideal for casseroles and your thrifty budget-buys.

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A thrifty buy in mushrooms--and still good quality--are U.S. Grade B mushrooms. They may not be the best color, nor quite as tender as the Grade A ones, but will be tasty and a good buy.

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PLANT PEST

— LOOK OUT !



"Project Pest Alert" is a new early warning system to prevent plant pests from entering the United States. The new system establishes a 100 mile detection belt around 16 major ports of entry that stand a high risk for offering a foothold to foreign plant pests -- according to USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service who will monitor the system.

Why is this necessary? In 1976, more than 100 million pieces of baggage and assorted packages entered the United States. Each one was a potential carrier of a plant pest. In addition to that, thousands of ships and planes and millions of tons of cargo -- with more potential carriers also arrived in this country.

Foreign pests need to be found quickly so that they can be eradicated before they do real damage to American crops and gardens. The concentration will be on major foreign insects which include nematodes, snails, and slugs that attack home vegetable gardens -- and farm crops such as corn, small grains, forage, soybeans and citrus.

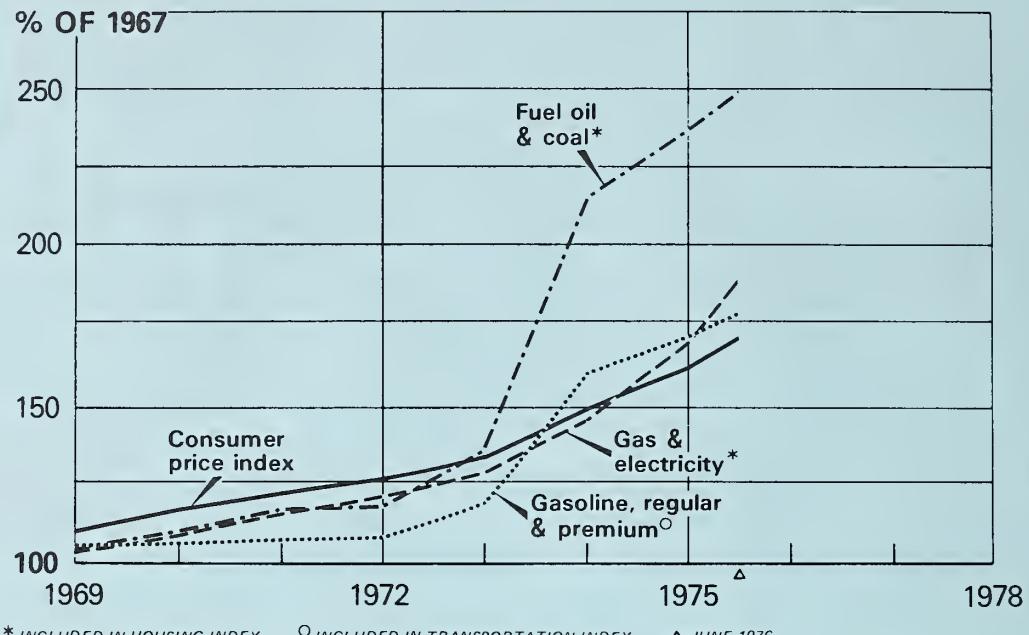
(Con't. on page 4)

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USDA 1345-77

AGRICULTURAL CHARTS

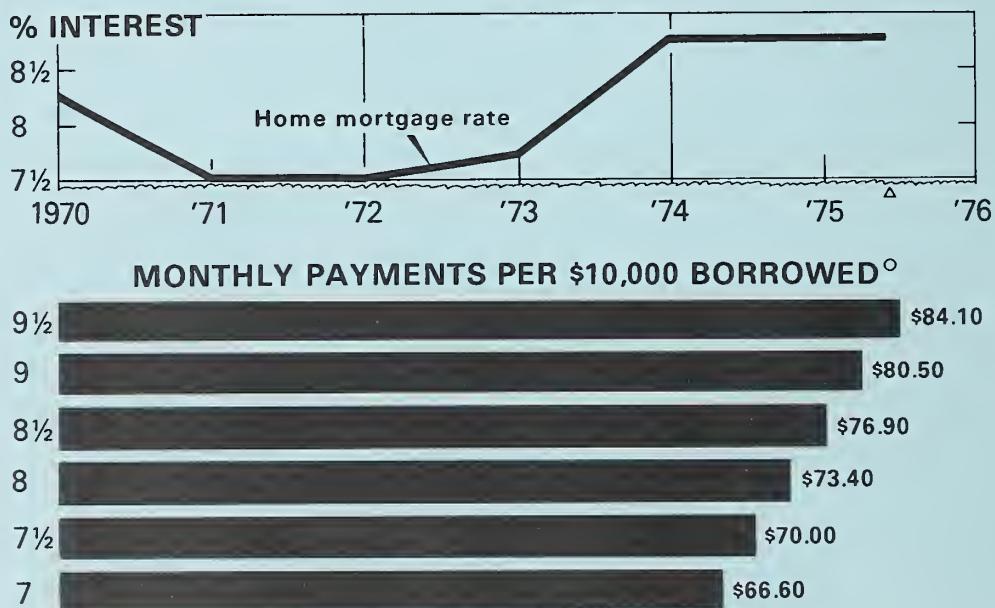
ENERGY PRICES



USDA

NEG. ARS 6085 - 76 (9)

HOME MORTGAGE RATE AND MONTHLY PAYMENTS



USDA

NEG. ARS 6094 - 76 (9)

Prepared by the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Slides/prints of these charts are available to the PRESS for reproduction if requested to the Editor of Food and Home Notes.

NATIONAL HERB GARDEN

First stages of the National Herb Garden are planned for mid-summer at the National Arboretum which is located in Northeast Washington, D.C. on a 415 acre plot. The Herb Society of America, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are planning the most complete herb garden in the world, according to reports by the Agricultural Research Service who administers the Arboretum. The Garden will cover about two acres and will be located near the Administration Building just inside the gates of the Arboretum.

The over-all plan for the garden includes a Historic Rose and Fragrance Garden about 50'X 80'. The speciality gardens are arranged around a grassy oval about 150' long. Among the speciality gardens planned are the Colonial, Culinary, Medicinal (through 1800), Commercial (cosmetics, soaps, etc.), Tea, Dye and Fibre, Small herbal trees such as the Medlar, the Hop Tree and the Quince will also be used.

The actual herb plantings probably will cover slightly less than an acre and there will be walkways and terraces with appropriate backgrounds of shrubs and trees. Much of this work will be paid for by donations on behalf of the arboretum. One of the major purposes of the herb garden is to educate and help people understand the long history of herbs. It is hoped that most of the herbs of the world will eventually be a part of this National Herb Garden.



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PLANT PEST (CON'T.)

Property owners in the "detection belt" areas will need to give permission to the USDA inspectors (who will be properly identified) to go on their land for the survey. The check-up usually takes about 1½ hours and needs to be made about once a year.

"Project Pest Alert" is now operating in 16 highest-risk locations: Brownsville, Texas; Miami, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Dover, Delaware; Houston, Texas; Charleston, South Carolina; Mobile, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York, New York; Norfolk, Virginia; San Antonio, Texas; San Diego, California; San Francisco, California; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Seattle, Washington.

This is supplemental to the ongoing Federal-State program which monitors incoming objects at ports of entry.

If property owners find an unusual pest feeding on their plants -- what should they do?? Contact the county agricultural extension agent and/or the nearest Plant Protection and Quarantine Office of USDA. Or call the national headquarters of the New Plant Pest Detection Program at 301-436-8890.

